FACT SHEET

SUNNYVALE AT A GLANCE

A Brief History of Sunnyvale

In 1850, Martin and Mary Murphy, after traveling by wagon from Missouri, bought a piece of land in present-day Santa Clara County. Murphy established a wheat farm and built the first frame house in the county. After brief periods under the names Murphy and then Encinal, the town that sprang up around Murphy's farm became known as Sunnyvale. The residents of Sunnyvale voted to incorporate in 1912.

Sunnyvale's history has always been based on its economy. Initially, the area's vast open space and fertile soil were ideal for the farms and fruit orchards that supported the settlement's first residents. With the arrival of the railroad in 1864, the economic base of the community was able to expand, as canneries to process the fruit from the surrounding orchards were built near the rail lines. In 1906, the Hendy Iron Works relocated from San Francisco to Sunnyvale, continuing the area's industrial development.

By 1940, the population had grown to about 4,400 and the Hendy Iron Works was taken over by Westinghouse to support the war effort. After the war, the defense-related industry arrived, capitalizing on the pleasant climate and Moffett Naval Air Station. Lockheed Missiles & Space Company moved to Sunnyvale in 1956, and soon became Sunnyvale's largest employer. The 1950s and 1960s became the periods of largest growth for the community, resulting in a population of 96,000 in 1970.

The defense era gave way to the high-tech era when the microprocessor was introduced in 1971. During the years that followed, companies with foresight saw the potential of computers and the power of semiconductors. The City became the nexus of research, development and manufacturing that created Silicon Valley, and that legacy continues today in the era of the Internet.

Today, Sunnyvale is The Heart of Silicon Valley™, and is the home of high-tech companies such as AMD, Sandisk, and Yahoo!. Honeywell and Lockheed Martin also have offices in Sunnyvale.

The City of Sunnyvale operates under a Council/Manager form of government, and is one of the few U.S. cities to have a unified Department of Public Safety where all sworn personnel are trained as firefighters and police officers and can respond to emergencies in either capacity.

Sunnyvale at a Glance:

- Region: Northern California, southern tip of San Francisco Bay

- Size: 24 Square Miles [Second largest city in Santa Clara County, fifth largest in the San Francisco Bay Area]

- Temperature: 71° (July) to 53° (January)

- Residential Population: 131,700 (Source: State Department of Finance)

- Number of Businesses: Approximately 8,031

- Workforce: Approximately 118,500

- Daytime Population: 230,000

- Average Household Income: $74,000

- Education: 67 % college educated

- Libraries: 1

- Golf Courses: 2

- Parks: 20

- Elementary, Middle and High Schools: 26 (public and private)

- Tennis Courts: 51 (16 at the world-class Tennis Center, and 35 at 15 other locations)

- Sports Fields: 132 multi-purpose

- Restaurants: 315

- Shopping Centers/Complexes: 52

- Major Hotels: 10 (total of 3,340 rooms and 38,000 sq. ft. of meeting space)

- Annual Events: Art & Wine Festival, Summer Music Series, Hands On the Arts, Downtown Association Holiday Tree Lighting, State of the City Address

Demographic makeup:

- White: 56.7 %

- Asian: 34.2 %

- African American: 2.7 %

- Native American: 1.1 %

- Pacific Islander: 0.7 %

- Other: 9.1 %